

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9749
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: CSU ORGAN SUGGESTS OFFICIAL BONN AGENCIES
- RESPONSIBLE FOR STRAUSS BUGGING

REF: (A) BONN 984; (B) MUNICH 226

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. LEAD ARTICLE OF CURRENT
ISSUE OF CSU ORGAN BAYERNKURIER CONTINUES CSU EFFORT TO
IMPLY THAT SPD/FDP COALITION IN BONN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE BUGGING OF CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS. ARTICLE
POINTS TO SEVERAL FACTORS WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED AS SUG-
GESTING THAT OFFICIAL FRG INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES WERE RE-
SPONSIBLE FOR BUGGING A LATE SEPTEMBER 1976 TELECON
BETWEEN STRAUSS AND BAYERNKURIER EDITOR WILFRIED SCHARNAGL.
END SUMMARY.

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2. JANUARY 21 ISSUE OF BAYERNKURIER CARRIES ARTICLE BY
SCHARNAGL, WHO IS NOW PAPER'S CHIEF EDITOR, WHICH IS AP-
ARENTLY DESIGNED TO SUGGEST THAT SPD/FDP COALITION WAS
RESPONSIBLE FOR BUGGING AN ALLEGED STRAUSS/SCHARNAGL TELE-
CON OF LATE SEPTEMBER 1976. SCHARNAGL POINTS TO A NUMBER
OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH SUGGEST THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF
AN OFFICIAL FRG SERVICE IN THE SEPTEMBER 1976 BUGGING.

THESE INCLUDE:

- (A) OBSERVATION THAT WHOEVER ARRANGED FOR THE TRANSCRIPTION OF THE ALLEGED TEXT OF THE STRAUSS/SCHARNAGL CONVERSATION HAD ACCESS TO THE FORMS USED BY AN FRG INTELLIGENCE AGENCY;
- (B) OBSERVATION THAT THE PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BUGGING HAD ACCESS TO AN OFFICIAL STAMP (DIENSTSTEMPEL);
- (C) OBSERVATION THAT ONLY AN INSIDER COULD KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE MIN JUSTICE'S LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE TO BE ABLE TO SYNCHRONIZE THE PREPARATION AND MAILING TO THE SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF A TRANSCRIPT OF A BUGGED AND ALLEGEDLY DOCTORED STRAUSS CONVERSATION DEALING WITH LOCKHEED.

3. SCHARNAGL ALSO IMPLIES THAT MOD STATE SECRETARY FINGERHUT, WHO IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MILITARY COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SERVICE (ABSCHIRMDIENST), PLAYED A PART IN THE BUGGING OF STRAUSS. SCHARNAGL CLAIMS THAT FINGERHUT PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN ATTEMPTS IN 1976 TO RUIN STRAUSS' REPUTATION BY MEANS OF INNUENDOES LINKING STRAUSS WITH ILLEGAL PAYMENTS FROM LOCKHEED. SCHARNAGL ALSO CLAIMS THAT SOCIALIST PARTY AND PERSONNEL POLITICS HAVE BECOME ENTRENCHED IN KEY POSITIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT THE TOP OF THE FRG MOD.

5. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THE CSU LEADERSHIP COULD WELL HAVE DOUBTS THAT THE SPD/FDP GOVERNMENT IN BONN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STRAUSS BUGGING, IT COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO FOREGO A CHANCE FOR REVENGE ON SPD FOR LATTER'S 1976 CAMPAIGN LINKING STRAUSS WITH LOCKHEED. BETTS

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